

98-28

January 16, 1998

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Kate Hansel
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: K299, A Confluence of Restoration and Education

Dear Kate,

I applaud the Herculean effort to launch the CALFED process and Category III program for the benefit of the Bay-Delta. I am also very disappointed that our proposal for The Delta Science Center, which received considerable discussion and support in and around the CALFED process, was not funded. On the recommendation of CALFED staff, we had spent one year convincing our collaboration that The Delta Science Center needed to and should expand its mission of education to seriously include applied science and site restoration.

Our approach to convert sewage wastewater and degraded grazing lands into primeval Delta habitat was well received by many Delta interests. A consensus was conveyed to us that if our proposal could meet the requirements of the Technical Review Committee, CALFED would be in a position to help us.

Our rejection notice was obviously disappointing and made me question how I had failed to meet the expectations of the Technical Review Committee. To my surprise, someone shared with me our technical review and score sheet which received a very respectable total of 46 points and a recommendation for partial funding (\$150,000)! The only low score we received was a "3" on the total cost of the project. That low score was, I believe, reflected in the Technical Review Committee's notes which acknowledged interest in the restoration design but not in the considerable costs attached to the design of education elements and infrastructure. Fair enough, considering all the good marks received in the six categories devoted to applicant ability, CALFED compatibility, biological effectiveness, technical feasibility, etc.

Other projects likely suffered a fate similar to ours, falling just off the bubble. In our case, to lose CALFED support may kill the project, a project that can raise much of its own financing and elevate for the public the importance of the Delta in perpetuity. But without CALFED support our efforts in private philanthropy are severely compromised and the will of our private/public collaboration weakened. It is unfortunate that we never had the opportunity to discuss the progress of our project with staff. For example, we had noted our efforts to encourage the East Bay Regional Park District to provide a \$400,000 match for our CALFED proposal, which was subsequently approved in October 1997.

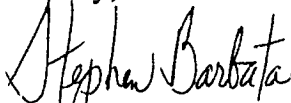
THE DELTA
SCIENCE CENTER
At Big Break

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Regardless, before the embers have completely cooled and Category III, rounds one and two, are closed, I just wanted to share these thoughts, and hold out for any positive alternative for partial funding of The Delta Science Center project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephen Barbata
Executive Director

✓cc: Lester A. Snow